

Inquiries of the Ministry

in the provincial elections. It is not the general practice to ask for opinions on matters of law at this point in our proceedings, and I think this would be particularly so if the question sought an interpretation of the electoral law of a province.

Hon. Lionel Chevrier (Laurier): I should like to address a question to the Acting Prime Minister, in the light of the reply which has been given by the Associate Minister of National Defence. In view of the wording of the order in council to which reference has been made, which states among other things that officers and men of the Canadian forces not exceeding 15,000 in number at any one time may most effectively participate in action undertaken by the United Nations to restore peace in the Republic of Korea, would the Acting Prime Minister get an opinion from the law officers of the crown as to whether the order in council is still in force, or whether it has been spent, since there is no longer any fighting in Korea?

Hon. Howard C. Green (Acting Prime Minister): I will be very glad to have this matter looked into.

(Translation):

Mr. Bourget: I wish to direct another question to the Associate Minister of National Defence.

Could the minister indicate whether members of the armed forces now stationed in the province of Quebec will be allowed to stay there until the day after the elections, so that they may exercise their franchise before being moved to another camp?

Mr. Fortin: Mr. Lesage asked that question yesterday.

Mr. Sevigny: Mr. Speaker, the hon. member for Levis will not doubt understand that armed forces personnel are subject to the contingencies of their military obligations, particularly to those connected with service arising out of any developments that may occur in the matter of defence.

It would be difficult for me to assure him with absolute certainty that all members of the armed forces will remain stationed where they are now until the day of the provincial elections.

(Text):

BRITISH COLUMBIA—REPORTED OPERATION
OF AIR STRIP BY U.S.

On the orders of the day:

Hon. Paul Hellyer (Trinity): Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Minister of National Defence. Has the minister any statement or explanation in respect

to a Canadian Press report from Vancouver to the effect that the United States air force is operating an air strip in the Puntzi lake district of British Columbia?

Hon. G. R. Pearkes (Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, at Puntzi lake one of the Pine Tree radar stations is established. At that station an air strip was completed in 1954 in order to enable light aircraft of the Otter type to supply the personnel of that station with the necessary provisions, etc. That station, as are a number of others, is operated by United States personnel under the original Pine Tree agreement.

Mr. Hellyer: A supplementary question. Can the minister confirm or otherwise reports from civilian pilots flying regularly in the area that they have observed considerable jet activity around this field?

Mr. Pearkes: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not think there has been any considerable jet activity in that area.

FRANCE—DISCUSSION OF DEFENCE MATTERS BY
ASSOCIATE DEFENCE MINISTER

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Speaker: The hon. member for Deschatelets.

Mr. J. P. Deschatelets (Maisonneuve-Rosemont): Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: I apologize to the hon. member for trying to rename his riding. The hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont.

(Translation):

Mr. Deschatelets: Mr. Speaker, I should like to direct a question to the Associate Minister of National Defence. Could the minister tell us if during his stay in Paris, he discussed the present situation with defence authorities in the French government? If so, has he any comment for us?

Hon. Pierre Sevigny (Associate Minister of National Defence): Mr. Speaker, in answer to the question asked by the hon. member for Maisonneuve-Rosemont, I must say that, during my stay in Paris, I had in fact the honour and privilege of meeting the minister of war of the French government, His Excellency Mr. Mesmer. We discussed matters of joint interest to France and Canada, as associate members of NATO. But the discussion was of a general nature, and I have nothing specific to tell hon. members with regard to that interview.